

REMARKS

In view of the following remarks, reconsideration of the present application is requested. No claims have been amended, cancelled or added. Claims 28-50 are currently pending. Claims 38-47, 49 and 50 are allowed.

Double Patenting

Claims 28-37 and 48 are finally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1, 5, 8 and 9 of U.S. Patent No. 7,019,217 to Bryant ("Bryant") in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,166,458 to Berndt et al. ("Berndt").

For the reasons set forth in the response to Office Action dated January 26, 2009, Applicant maintains that it would not be obvious to modify the claimed structure of Bryant in the manner suggested by the Examiner. As was previously discussed, It would not have been obvious to modify the collet of Bryant et al., which functions to mechanically secure a composite core to a fitting, by substituting elements of the member (15) of Berndt et al. that provide "limited compressive ability" and that are only provided by Berndt et al. to ensure good electrical contact to the electrical wire (18). That is, Bryant is concerned with mechanically gripping a *core member*, whereas Berndt et al. is concerned with gripping a conductor to merely provide electrical contact. In fact, the "limited compressive ability" of the member (15) of Berndt et al. would lead one to believe that a similar structure would *not* be capable of adequately securing a composite core within the member and therefore would be useless. The member (15) of Berndt et al. and the lumen of Claim 1 of Bryant perform substantially different functions, and are adapted to grip different elements (i.e., a conductive wire vs. a composite core). It is the member (22) of Berndt et al. that is adapted to *mechanically grip* the conductive wire, and for this mechanical gripping function the gripping member (22) is *not* smooth, but is provided with serrations.

Nonetheless, in order to expedite the allowance of the present application, Applicant submits herewith an executed Terminal Disclaimer with respect to commonly-owned U.S. Patent No. 7,019,217.

It is believed that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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